

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 6-7, 36, and 53-54; rejected claims 53-54 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; rejected claims 54 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; indicated claims 9-11, 17-19, 37, 39-41, and 45-47 are allowed; and indicated claims 6-7 and 36 would be allowable if the objections were overcome.

By this amendment, applicants have amended claims 6, 36, and 53 in response to the objections and canceled claim 54 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Regarding the objections, Applicants submit that the amendments obviate the basis of the objections.

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, although Applicants do not agree with the propriety of the rejections, Applicants have amended claim 53 as suggested by the Examiner and canceled claim 54 to expedite prosecution to allowance.

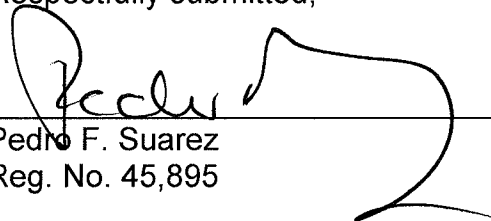
Applicants submit that pending claims 6, 7, 9-11, 17-19, 36, 37, 39, 40, 45-47, and 53 are in immediate condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

No fees are believed to be due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 39700-796001US/NC40107US. If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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